

ZERO BEAT

Our 53rd year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

March, 1998

March Meeting - Antenna Scoop You Can Bet On!

**K1WHS from Directive Systems, our
Speaker**

This month's speaker will be Dave Olean, K1WHS, from Directive Systems of Lebanon, Maine.

Dave will be showing his latest developments in loop Yagis and will have a working demonstration of how antenna gain and pattern measurements are made.

DON'T FORGET THE NET!

The H.C.R.A. invites all Amateurs and those interested in becoming hams to tune into our weekly nets -

Monday night, 7:30 p.m. on 10 meters, 28.375 +/- QRM;

and Tuesday nights, 7:30 p.m. on 2 meters, 147.105 MHz, +600kHz.

Stop in and let us know what you have to say!

*Bring a friend to our next
meeting -
You'll both be glad you did!*

HCRA on the Move - We're Taking a Trip!

**Take a tour of the Cushcraft Antennas
factory!**

We've got something special cooking for April! Come take a trip by chartered coach to Manchester, New Hampshire, and take a guided tour through the Cushcraft Antenna factory! This trip was set up especially for the HCRA and should not be missed by anyone!

The First Hamfest of the Season

The MTARA 13th Annual
Amateur Radio & Electronic Flea
Market

Sunday, March 1, 1998

Westfield Middle School

Route 10, Westfield, MA

For more information contact:

Jim Allen, N1RUT

Days: (413) 593-6516

Evenings: (413) 536-5182

or E-Mail

Jim.Allen@the-spa.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I hope all of you that attended the February Club meeting enjoyed it as much as I did. Chuck the East Coast Manager of Ham Radio Outlet was very informative and entertaining.

This month's speaker is a very well known antenna "guru", Dave Olean, K1WHS of Directive systems. Dave is a great speaker and we are fortunate to have him come to our Club as guest speaker. It will be of interest and benefit to all of us to come on down to the March meeting to meet Dave and listen to his presentation.

We will also continue with the TECH CORNER which will start at 7:00 P.M., a half an hour before the start of the meeting. There will be time for schmoozing, again some interesting raffle prizes, and, of course, coffee and "Charlie's donuts".

FIELD DAY is in the planning stage, and it would be great to have the membership get involved. The more of us that come forward to help, the more successful our FIELD DAY operation will be. Contact any of the club officers and let them know of your interest in getting involved, or you can call me at (413) 565-5222. Please remember to check into the Club Ten-Meter Net Monday evenings and the 2-Meter Net Tuesday evenings. See page 1 of ZERO BEAT for further details.

GOOD NEWS! It looks like the bus trip to the Cushcraft Antenna plant is a go! As it stands now, we will depart by bus from the parking lot of the Feeding Hills Congregational Church (our regular meeting place) April 24th, the fourth (last) Friday in April at 5:30 P.M. We will be limited to fifty four bus riders, and we will begin taking reservations at the March Club meeting. The details such as price, date and time will also be presented at that time. I am sure a great evening is in store for us, **so please be prepared to sign up early** so as not to miss out!

(Editor's note: although a price is not set yet, we are estimating \$10-\$12 for the round trip bus fare. Please note this is an estimate and is given here only to give you an idea of how much to bring to reserve a place on the bus. There is no fee for the tour of Cushcraft's facilities).

Some of you non-members may be getting ZERO BEAT for the first time or for the first time in a long while. We invite you to join us at the Club meeting to find out what we are all about and perhaps join or rejoin HCRA whichever the case may be.

Looking forward to visiting with all of you at the March Club meeting.

de Irv, W6IS

HCRA OFFICERS

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GEORGE WALSH K1RBS
STEVE NELSON WA1EYF

HCRA CALENDAR EVENTS

MARCH 1	MTARA Flea Mkt
MARCH 6	CLUB MEETING
MARCH 12	BOARD MEETING
APRIL 3	CLUB MEETING
APRIL 9	BOARD MEETING
APRIL 24	CUSHCRAFT TOUR

ASK THE ELMERS !

Below, you will find a list of our Elmers. If you have a question that can't wait, give them a call (not too early or late, please!). If you would be interested in helping someone as an Elmer, let us know at the meeting. See Irv or Barry.

HCRA ELMERS

BOB ARCHAMBAULT, KA1JDY (413)
536-4578

AL DRAKE, N1CQT (413) 783-8427

NORM FOREST, N1PF (413) 782-2026

WALT NERO, WA1HHN (413) 245-3746

PETER RUSSELL, KE1DQ (203) 253-9872

ADDITIONAL

The American Red Cross and local Hams are working together to improve the emergency communications capability of the ARC. Hams are active in all the chapters in W/Mass. Training is also available in Disaster Services, Disaster Assistance Teams, Damage Assessment and Shelter Operations. Look for the Emergency Communications table at the MTARA Flea Mkt. For further information, call:

Tom Doyle, N1MUV
(413) 596-6870

Dan Sullivan, AA1TE
(413) 732-7259

Questions, Comments, or Notices for ZERO BEAT, or the HCRA?

Contact:

Irv Slitzky, W6IS, (413) 565-5222
Barry Mason, N1IJK, (413) 747-7010
HCRA, P.O. Box 562, Agawam,
MA, 01101-0562
ZERO BEAT, c/o 36 Kenwood Terr.,
Springfield, MA. 01108

In The Spotlight

We want to know who our members are. In the past two issues we have Spotlitged our President and Vice-President. Hey, all well and fine, but tell us about YOU! How long have you been a ham? Are you studying now for your first exam? Have you recently upgraded? What are YOUR interests in ham radio? What other interests do you have? The ham community is a diverse one, and we love to hear what our fellow (and lady) hams are all about and what they are doing. Let us know. Drop Barry a (brief!) description, and we will publish it in the next issue. Either give it to him at the meeting, or mail it to the ZERO BEAT address, ATTN: Spotlight

This month's spotlight is on an HCRA Board Member, Al Drake, N1CQT

Al has been a ham for about 18 years, and has belonged to the HCRA for all 18 years. Al volunteered to help out as a Board member this year in order to help out the Club in its time of need.

Al first got interested in ham radio in the '40s when his father would hear the news from overseas on the radio, and three days later see it in the newspaper!

Norm, N1PF was Al's Elmer. Al attended Norm's classes, and went to work on the code. Norm worked his way up to 13 words per minute to pass the General exam, and then studied and earned an Advanced ticket.

Norm mentions that he doesn't get on the air as much as he likes, (boy, does that sound familiar!) but is hoping to become more active as time goes on.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

BY K1II, HCRA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

What is EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS all about? Why should one become involved? As dedicated licensed Amateur Radio Operators, we have the responsibility of goodwill and to provide the United States with a readily available resource of trained communications personnel in times of emergency and disaster. Acting in a professional way in an unpaid Amateur capacity, there is gratification and self esteem of being an important part of helping save lives, alleviate suffering, protecting property, and passing health and welfare messages to loved ones.

Emergency service activity groups include, but not limited to, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), National Traffic System (NTS), American Red Cross (ARC), National Weather SKYWARN (NOAA), and Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS), to name just a few. Becoming affiliated and trained with any Emergency Communications group is necessary to maintain order and efficiency. Drills, exercises, and regular activity with Emergency Service groups are another fun part of our hobby by meeting and working with other fellow hams.

RACES is administered by the local/county/state Emergency Management Agency under the guidance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with specific FCC regulations. It is the part of the Amateur Service providing radio communications for civil preparedness, hostile related activities, natural disasters, and hazardous material incidents.

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RACES provides government to government communications on a local/county/state level by official government enrollment of licensed radio.

Amateurs through appropriate Emergency Management Directors. RACES communications normally include an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or incident command staging area.

ARES consists of licensed Amateur operators who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in public interest when an emergency or disaster strikes. Every licensed Amateur operator with a sincere desire to serve is eligible for membership. ARES is sponsored by the ARRL and consists of three levels - section, district, and local. The Section Emergency Coordinators is appointed by the Section Manager. The SEC has local Emergency Coordinators reporting to him. Special interest groups are headed up by the Assistant EC to supervise activities of groups on a local level. To enroll or obtain further information, refer to your ARRL section in QST. Many ARES operators also are RACES members which helps with cooperation under a Declaration of Emergency.

National Traffic System, NTS, has the principal objectives of rapid movement of traffic from origination to destination and the training operators to handle written traffic participating in directed nets. NTS operates daily on four levels - Area, Region, Section, and Local. Local nets cover local areas of the ARRL Sections, typically on 2 meter FM. Some nets are designated as ARES emergency nets while others are mainly for local traffic delivery. Operations during disaster situations is expanded by the communications needs in the affected area in coordination with the agencies to be served. Participation in NTS is by checking into nets on a regular basis and being active in traffic handling.

SKYWARN operation is through licensed Amateur operators in formal and informal net activity during periods of severe weather, reporting on prescribed criteria to National Weather. Hail, heavy rain, high winds, excessive snowfall, icing conditions, and tornado activity are reporting examples. SKYWARN training is by formal sessions held periodically by National Weather (NOAA) trainers for Amateur radio operators.

The ARRL recently published the ARES FIELD RESOURCES MANUAL which is highly recommended to anyone having an interest in any type of Emergency Communications activity. Active emergency nets are on most 2 meter repeaters and 75 meter

SSB especially Sunday mornings and the first Monday evening of the month. Specific listing will be included in the future. Field Day emergency communications participation activity for all Amateurs will be coming up soon at the end of June. This is an annual event, and a great fun time for operation under simulated emergency conditions.

Recently, the ice storm disaster just north of us is a wake-up call for all in preparation for what may come; not if, but when. As a reminder during the past twelve months there were fourteen severe weather warnings in the local Hampden County area.

Charles Dunlap, K1II
HCRA Director
Emergency Management Director, Town of Southwick
AEC Hampden County-West
Emergency Operating Station

(Thanks Charlie for that informative article. You have really cleared up some of the confusion about who does what!.....Look for Emergency Communications to become a monthly feature in ZERO BEAT!)

Answers

Speaking of SKYWARN, here's a weather quiz provided by N1QKO, Eric. Do you know your clouds? Match each cloud with it's description. Answers below..... **Good Luck!**

- 1___ALTOCUMULUS 2___ALTOSTRATUS 3___CIRRIFORM
4___CIRROCULULUS 5___CIRROSTRATUS 6___CIRRUS ___CUMULUS 8___FOG
9___FUNNEL CLOUD 10___STATUS

A. a cloud whose base is at the earth's surface. B. high altitude ice clouds with a very thin wispy appearance. C. mid-latitude clouds with a cumuliform shape. D. very flat low level clouds. E. cirrus clouds with vertical development. F. a cloud in the shape of individually detached domes, with a flat base and a bulging upper portion resembling cauliflower. G. high clouds, usually above 16,000 ft., composed of ice crystals. H. a rotating, cone-shaped column of air extending downward from the base of a thunderstorm, not touching the ground. I. cirrus clouds with a flat sheetlike appearance. J. mid-latitude clouds with a flat sheetlike shape.

HAM RADIO HISTORY

4 BILLION BC - Earth is a swirling ball of flames. Propagation is extremely poor.

1 BILLION BC - First dry land appears. It is divided up into grid squares.

500 Million BC - Second patch of dry land appears. First DXpedition; DXCC credit disallowed because of questionable licensing agreement.

400 Million BC - Flowering plants and grasses evolve. Rotary beam invented, but sales stall for lack of suitable mounting structures.

300 Million BC - First tree appears and is immediately cut down, stripped of branches, placed in a concrete base and called a telephone pole. Beam sales pick up.

200 Million BC - More beams sold. Installer falls from top of pole. Safety belt is invented.

100 Million BC - First mountain appears. The repeater is invented.

50 Million BC - CQ is adopted.

4 Million BC - Humans replace swine as dominant species. The name "ham operator" hangs on.

3 Million BC - Dugout canoe invented. Maritime mobile net formed on 14.313 MHz

2 Million BC to 800 A.D. - Nothing much happens for a long time.

900 A.D. - Chinese invent gunpowder. BY1AA is first "Big Gun" DX'er.

1790 A.D. - Ben Franklin invents long wire receiving antenna. Ground switch invented.

1961 A.D. - Second repeater erected. First repeater group refuses to change frequency. First repeater coordinator appointed.

1998 A.D. - Amateur Radio Humor sinks to a new low.

From the ARRL Letter

Answers to quiz: 1C, 2J, 3B, 4E, 5I, 6G, 7F, 8A, 9H, 10D

- Machine Rebuilding • Installation • Removal
- Control Panels • Start-Up • Contractual Services

Used **THE HHN** New
Machines **ELECTRIC CO.** Machines

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THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 562
AGAWAM, MA. 01001-0562

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Call sign _____ New _____ Renewal _____ Reinstated _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ Is this a listed number? YES NO
(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS BELOW)

License Class: ~~None~~ ~~Novice~~ ~~Technician~~ ~~Technician Plus~~ ~~General~~ ~~Advanced~~ ~~Extra~~

ARRL: MEMBER LIFE MEMBER

ARES MEMBER YES RACES MEMBER YES

VE: YES NO EXTRA ADVANCED GENERAL EXPIRATION _____

If you are a VE, would you be willing to participate in HCRA's VE program? YES NO

Please list any family members that are licensed Amateur Operators:

Regular HCRA membership is \$13.00. The cost of membership is used for items such as ZERO BEAT, and the meeting hall. Additional family members are FREE. Just list their names in the space provided above. If you are under 18 years of age, dues are only \$5.00. Please consider including a donation to help the HCRA in future endeavors. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law (we are considered a non-profit organization). Please fill this form out and make checks payable to the HCRA and send it to the address above, or bring the form along to any Club meeting. The HCRA appreciates your support!

**The next meeting of the
Hampden County Radio Association
will be on Friday, March 6, 1998
at 7:30 p.m. at the Feeding Hills Congrega-
tional Church. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
Tech Corner (ATV!!) starts at 7:10.
Our Guest Speaker is
Dave Olean, K1WHS from Directive Systems.
Plus info on the CUSHCRAFT FACTORY
TOUR!!!!!!**

SEE YOU THERE!

In case of inclement weather, listen to Channel 40 or 22, and the 146.940 and 147.105 repeaters.
Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 p.m.

Barry Mason, N1IJK, Editor
36 Kenwood Terrace
Springfield, MA. 01108

